

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 OIC-02 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00  
AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03  
INR-10 NEA-10 NSAE-00 OPIC-03 SP-02 TRSE-00  
LAB-04 SIL-01 AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 STR-07 XMB-02  
DOE-11 SOE-02 EPA-01 DOEE-00 /124 W  
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O 091838Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8394  
USMISSION USNATO  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST  
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE  
AMEMBASSY SOFIA  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EEWT, ETRD, OECD  
SUBJECT: EAST-WEST TRADE: MEETING OF OECD TRADE  
COMMITTEE WORKING PARTY MARCH 7-8

1. SUMMARY: IN ADDITION TO DEBATE ON ISSUE OF  
EASTERN RECIPROCITY IN MTN REPORTED SEPTTEL, TCWP  
REVIEWED SECRETARIAT'S STUDY OF E/W TRADE TRENDS  
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AND DISCUSSED FUTURE AREAS OF WORK FOR GROUP. ALL  
DELS AGREED ON HIGH VALUE OF TRENDS REPORT AND  
THAT IT SHOULD BE UPDATED ANNUALLY. NEXT REVISION  
WILL EXPAND SECTION ON DEBT PROJECTIONS AND  
SECRETARIAT IS TO LOOK AT FEASIBILITY OF FOCUSING  
ON TRENDS IN KEY PRODUCT SECTORS OF INTEREST. ON  
FUTURE WORK, THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN U.S.

PROPOSAL TO EXAMINE EASTERN EXPORT POTENTIAL AS A MAIN DETERMINANT OF IMPORT CAPACITY. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING OF TCWP ON E/W TRADE, SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 27-28, WILL INCLUDE REVISED COUNTERTRADE PAPER, SECRETARIAT COMMENTS ON BALANCE OF ADVANTAGES, FEASIBILITY OF SECTORAL TRADE TRENDS STUDY, AND A MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF FUTURE WORK PROPOSALS MADE AT THIS SESSION. END SUMMARY.

2. TRENDS AND OUTLOOK IN EAST-WEST TRADE: TCWP MADE THOROUGH REVIEW OF SECRETARIAT'S REVISED STUDY ON TRENDS AND OUTLOOK IN EAST-WEST TRADE, WHICH ALL FELT WAS AN EXTREMELY VALUABLE PIECE OF WORK. NUMBER OF DELS COMMENTED ON FACTUAL QUESTIONS AND MADE SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN THE STUDY'S CONTENT AND FORMAT. U.S. DEL QUESTIONED THE SECRETARIAT'S END-1977 EASTERN EUROPEAN HARD CURRENCY DEBT CALCULATIONS (\$42 BILLION AS OPPOSED TO USG ESTIMATE OF \$48 BILLION) AND ASKED THAT FURTHER VERSIONS OF THE PAPER INCLUDE AN ANNEX ON THE SECRETARIAT'S DEBT ESTIMATION METHODOLOGY. U.S. DEL ALSO SUGGESTED MORE ANALYSIS ON THE 1980 DEBT PROSPECTS SECTION, PARTICULARLY MORE EXPLICIT STATEMENT OF THE ASSUMPTIONS UNDERLYING THE TRADE PROJECTIONS--DRAWING UPON WORK OF OTHER BODIES IN OECD (ENERGY, AGRICULTURE, FINANCIAL MARKETS) WHERE HELPFUL.

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SWISS DEL PROPOSED EXPANDING THE EAST-SOUTH TRADE SECTION, AND ALSO THAT THE GLOBAL EMPHASIS OF THE PAPER BE SHIFTED TO INCLUDE A DISCUSSION OF INDIVIDUAL EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRY TRADE TRENDS, INCLUDING AN ANALYSIS OF THE COMMODITIES (E.G. TEXTILES, CHEMICALS AND PROCESSED FOOD PRODUCTS) INVOLVED. OTHERS WERE UNENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT COUNTRY BREAKDOWNS, BUT IDEA OF FOCUSING ON CERTAIN PRODUCT SECTORS AROUSED CONSIDERABLE INTEREST. EC DEL DESIRED INCREASED DISCUSSION ON INTER-CEMA TRADE, EVEN A SEPARATE STUDY, BUT AT SWISS SUGGESTION THE CEMA DISCUSSION IN TRENDS PAPER MAY BE EXPANDED.

3. GROUP AGREED NEXT REVISION OF STUDY SHOULD COMPRESS FIRST THREE SECTIONS OF PAPER AND EXPAND FINAL SECTION, WITH ANNEX ON DEBT ESTIMATION PROCEDURES AS SUGGESTED BY U.S. NEXT REVIEW WILL TAKE PLACE IN LATE SPRING 1979, TO ENABLE INCLUDING

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AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 EA-10 FRB-03  
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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
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GLOBAL TRADE DATA FOR 1978 AND PRODUCT-BY-PRODUCT  
ANALYSIS FOR 1977. STUDY WILL BE UPDATED ON AN  
ANNUAL BASIS. WITH REGARD TO INCORPORATING  
PRODUCT SECTOR ANALYSIS INTO THE REVISED PAPER,  
SECRETARIAT WILL PREPARE A NOTE BY THE NEXT TCWP MEETING  
TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF A SEPARATE STUDY  
ON THIS TOPIC. FINALLY, AFTER NOTING OBJECTIONS  
BY THE GERMAN, FINNISH, AND ITALIAN DELS, THE  
GROUP DECIDED AGAINST DERESTRICTING THE STUDY,  
BUT NOTED THAT (AT NORWEGIAN AND FINNISH SUGGESTION)  
MEMBER GOVERNMENTS COULD DISCUSS THE DATA ON A  
CONFIDENTIAL BASIS WITH PRIVATE INDUSTRIAL OR  
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EXPORT LEADERS.

4. FUTURE E/W WORK PROGRAM: AUSTRALIAN DEL SUGGESTED FURTHER WORK ON GENERAL BALANCE OF ADVANTAGES IN EAST-WEST TRADE. SECRETARIAT INDICATED IT HAD NO PLANS TO REVISE ITS SEPTEMBER 1977 REPORT ON THIS SUBJECT, BUT IT WAS AGREED A PAPER HIGHLIGHTING SOME OF THE PRIORITY THEMES CONTAINED IN THAT STUDY SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR THE NEXT MEETING OF THE WORKING PARTY. ON SUBJECT OF COUNTERTRADE, U.S. DEL NOTED THAT USG HAS RECENTLY LOOKED INTO THE PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH COUNTERTRADE, AND HAD FOUND EVIDENCE THAT COUNTERTRADE PRACTICES ARE INCREASING AND ARE NOT UNIQUE TO EAST-WEST COMMERCIAL RELATIONS. CITING COUNTERTRADE DEALS BETWEEN FRANCE AND IRAN, FRG AND BRAZIL, AND A RECENT DEAL BETWEEN A U.S. FIRM AND AN IRANIAN OIL EXPORTER, HE SUGGESTED COUNTERTRADE WAS BECOMING MORE COMMON IN WEST-WEST AND NORTH-SOUTH COMMERCIAL RELATIONS, AND THAT A PROLIFERATION OF SUCH PRACTICES COULD RESULT IN A REGRESSION TOWARDS BILATERALISM AND A WEAKENING OF THE MULTILATERAL TRADING FRAMEWORK. U.S. NOTED IT WAS CONSIDERING PROPOSING AN EXPANSION OF OECD WORK IN THIS AREA TO INCLUDE WEST-WEST AND NORTH-SOUTH PRACTICES. RE EASTERN PRICE POLICY, EC COMMISSION DEL STATED THAT A STUDY OF THIS WOULD BE TECHNICALLY FUTILE DUE TO INSUFFICIENT DATA, AND SUGGESTED THAT IT WOULD BE MORE REALISTIC AND USEFUL FOR THE SECRETARIAT TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF EXPORT SUBSIDIES IN THE EAST.

5. U.S. DEL ARGUED THAT AS THE FUTURE GROWTH OF EAST-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WEST TRADE DEPENDS ON THE ABILITY OF EASTERN COUNTRIES TO SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASE THEIR EXPORTS TO THE WEST, THE SECRETARIAT SHOULD UNDERTAKE A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY STUDY OF EASTERN EXPORT POTENTIAL. SUCH A STUDY WOULD SEEK TO IDENTIFY EASTERN PLANT AND EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT ALREADY UNDERTAKEN AND DETERMINE THE EFFECT OF THESE INVESTMENTS ON FUTURE EASTERN EXPORTS TO THE WEST. WHILE U.S. WAS INTERESTED IN A COUNTRY-BY-COUNTRY STUDY SHOWING POTENTIAL EXPORT EARNINGS, THE STUDY COULD ALSO COVER OTHER OECD MEMBERS' INTERESTS IN SPECIFIC SECTORS. U.S. DEL AGREED TO PUT ITS PROPOSAL IN WRITING, SUGGESTING POSSIBLE METHODOLOGIES, AND WOULD BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS IT IN DETAIL AT THE NEXT TCWP MEETING. SEVERAL DELEGATIONS, NOTABLY

EC, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND AND FINLAND, EXPRESSED  
SUPPORT FOR THE U.S. PROPOSAL, AND INDICATED THEIR  
WILLINGNESS TO DISCUSS IT AT THE NEXT MEETING.

6. NEXT MEETING OF TCWP ON EAST-WEST TRADE WAS  
SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 27-28.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Draft Date:** 09 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** EEWT, ETRD, OECD  
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